

CLERKS IN OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.

LETTER

FROM

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,

RELATIVE TO

The clerks in his office.

DECEMBER 7, 1869.—Referred to Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, December 6, 1869.

SIR: The second section of the "act making appropriations for the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses of the government for the year ending June 30, 1870," directs a report to Congress by the heads of the several executive departments, of "the number of desks in their several departments, the number of clerks in their several departments, the number employed therein during the preceding fiscal year, when employed and when discharged, and the amount of compensation received by each, and what reduction, if any, can be made in the number of clerks in each grade."

In compliance with this section I have the honor to report that the number of clerks allowed to this department by law is ten, classified as follows:

One law clerk, at an annual compensation of	\$2,500
One chief clerk, at an annual compensation of	2,200
One clerk, at an annual compensation of	2,000
Four clerks, of class 4, at an annual compensation of	1,800
Two clerks, of class 3, at an annual compensation of	1,600
One clerk, of class 1, at an annual compensation of	1,200

No vacancy occurred in these clerkships during the preceding fiscal year, and none has occurred during the present, and no changes have been made in them except by resignation.

In addition, there was also employed during the last year, as there is at present, one clerk, at an annual compensation of sixteen hundred dollars, paid from the appropriation for "legal assistance and other necessary expenditures in the disposal of private land claims in California."

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While this force may be sufficient for the purely clerical needs of the office, it is not, in my opinion, susceptible of reduction consistently with the public interests.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect,

E. R. HOAR,
Attorney General.

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.